

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 04163 191108Z

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ACTION AID-59

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R 181530Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4548

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

UNCLAS DAKAR 4163

AFDROUGHT

EO 11652N/A

FOR MONROVIA FOR AG ATTACHE

PARIS FOR RAICHT-ROME FOR FODAG

SUBJ: 1973 CROP PROSPECTS SENEGAL

REF: A) DAKAR 3965

B) DAKAR 3786

1. FIELD TRIP LAST WEEK THROUGH PRINCIPAL GRAIN PEANUT PRODUCING

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PAGE 02 DAKAR 04163 191108Z

AREAS OF SINE-SALOUM, DIOURBEL AND THIES REGIONS BY REGIONAL GRAIN

OFFICER EDWARDS SUPPORTS EARLIER REPORTS REFTELS THAT SENEGAL CAN EXPECT GOOD TO VERY GOOD GRAIN CROP THIS YEAR. THIS CONCLUSION FULLY SUPPORTED BY DISCUSSIONS GOS OFFICIALS AND REPORTS RECENT FIELD TRIPS BY GOVERNORS ABOVE REGIONS WHICH EXPRESS OPTIMISM CONCERNING UP COMING HARVEST.

2. VIRTUALLY ALL TILLABLE SURFACES PLANTED USUALLY TO MILLET OR PEANUTS WITH ALMOST NO LAND LEFT FALLOW. NORMALLY CENTRAL AND SOUTH CENTRAL SENEGAL GRAIN HECTARAGE NEARLY EQUALLY DIVIDED BETWEEN MILLET AND SORGHUM. HOWEVER THIS YEAR NEARLY 95 PER CENT GRAIN THIS REGION IS MILLET. REPORTS FROM OTHER TECHNICIANS WHO RECENTLY VISITED CASAMANCE AREA WHICH NORMALLY EVEN MORE HEAVILY SOWN SORGHUM INDICATE ONLY QP-15 PER CENT GRAIN AREA IN SORGHUM WITH HEAVY PREFERENCE FOR MILLET. APPARENTLY FARMERS OPTED SACRIFICED SOME YIELDED POTENTIAL OF LATER MATURING SORGHUM IN FAVOR EARLY MATURING LESS WATER DEMANDING MILLETS.

3. NEARLY ALL MILLET OBSERVED WAS IN OR COMPLETED FLOWERING WHICH MEANS CROP SHOULD BE READY HARVEST BY ABOUT END SEPTEMBER. THUS GRAIN CROP ESSENTIALLY ALREADY ASSURED WITHOUT FURTHER RAIN. PEANUTS OF COURSE STILL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL RAIN THROUGH SEPTEMBER FOR BEST RESULTS BUT PROSPECTS APPEAR VERY PROMISING. ONLY EXCEPTIONS WERE TWO LIMITED AREAS NEAR KAFFRINE IN SOUTH CENTRAL AND DIOURBEL IN CENTRAL SENEGAL WHICH APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN SHORT OF RAIN EARLIER RESULTING IN DELAYED AND UNEVEN CROP GROWTH. THESE WERE ONLY AREAS WHERE ANY SIGNS DROUGHT STRESS COULD BE OBSERVED.

4. REPORTS INDICATE THAT NORTHERN AREAS SENEGAL ALSO HAVE PROSPECT OF FAIR TO GOOD GRAIN CROP FOLLOWING GENERALLY GOOD RAINS RECEIVED THROUGH AUGUST EARLY SEPTEMBER.

HOWEVER SOME INDICATIONS NOW THAT SENEGAL RIVER MAY FAIL REACH SUFFICIENT HEIGHT ALLOW NORMAL FLOODING ADJACENT LOWLANDS. THIS COULD GREATLY REDUCE PROSPECTS FOR SORGHUM CROP NORMALLY PRODUCED ALONG RIVER AS CULTURE DE CRUS.
CLARK

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